

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03089 151618Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O P 151559Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2494
INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3089

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, AO
SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA

REF: (A) LUANDA 1144; (B) STATE 192697

1. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH DFA UNDERSECY VAN
DALSEN ON OTHER MATTERS, I ASKED HIM IF THERE WERE ANY
SUBSTANCE TO REPORTS THAT SAG MAY HAVE SENT TROOPS INTO
ANGOLA TO PROTECT CUNENE RIVER PROJECTS. HE DISCLAIMED
AND KNOWLEDGE BUT CALLED ME HALF HOUR LATER TO SAY ACTING

PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE ZQTHA HAD AUTHORIZED
HIM TO TELL ME IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT SAG HAD SENT
TROOPS INTO ANGOLA TO PROTECT PUMPING STATIONS. BOTH ADDED
FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. PORTUGUESE WORKERS REFUSED TO WORK ON PROJECTS BECAUSE
OF LACK OF PROTECTION.

B. CONTINUED FLOW OF WATER WAS "ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE"
FOR OVAMBOLAND.

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 03089 151618Z

C. SAG HAS NO AGRESSIVE INTENT WHATSOEVER IN SENDING

TROOPS AND IS MAKING NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN ANGOLA.

VAN DALSEN WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE DETAILS ON NUMBER OF
TROOPS, WHERE POSTED AND WHEN DISPTCHED.

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THIS MORNING THAT MINISTER BOTHA,
ACCOMPANIED BY JUSTICE MINISTER KRUGER, DEFENSE FORCE CHIEF
BIERMANN AND POLICE COMMISSIONER PRINSLOO HAD MADE "LIGHTENING
TOUR" OF SWA-ANGOLA BORDER AREA YESTERDAY (AUG 14). MILITARY
SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED IT SAYING PARTY HAD GONE TO MILITARY
BASES ON A "ROUTINE VISIT" AND ALSO VISITED ANGOLAN REFUGEE
CAMPS.

3. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON SAG TROOP BUILD-UP ON NAMBIAN

SIDE OF BORDER, BUT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THIS GOING ON.
BOTHA PARTY VISIT WOULD
POINT IN THAT DIRECTION.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION
ON SA TROOP ACTIVITIES ALONG ANGOLA BORDER.

BOWDLER

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